Application Ranking Summary
Massachusetts FY2017 - CROPLAND

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.		
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)	CAP applications only: Answer YES. Go directly to State question #1.
2. Water Quality Degradation - Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)		
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Points	New or revised CNMP. Core Practice: Nutrient Management (590)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Points	New or revised NMP. Core Practice: Nutrient Management (590)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land ajoining a designated "impaired water body (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Points	*Adjacent* to 303D catagories 4-5 listed waters; erosion and water quality practices.
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Points	*Adjacent* to Other water.
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Points	Practices: Animal Mortality Facility (316)
3. Water Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)		
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquafer overdraft?	15 Points	Calculated on Irrigation Worksheet; pertains to state identified HIGH YIELD or SOLE SOURCE AQUIFER. Irrigation Efficiency Practices: Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466).
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Points	Practices: Sprinkler Irrigation (441) (improvements), Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466), Irrigation Water Management (449), Irrigation Reservoir (436) (tailwater recovery).
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Points	N/A
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Points	N/A
4. Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)		
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Points	N/A
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)? green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	10 Points	Practices: Anerobic Digester (366), Combustion System Improvement (372), Composting Facility (317); Establishment of: Conservation Cover (327), Cover Crop (340), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Prescribed Grazing (528), Irrigation Water Mgt (449), Residue Mgt., No-Till (329), Tree & Shrub Establishment (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	10 Points	Practices: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Tree & Shrub Estab. (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Points	Practices: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Tree & Shrub Estab. (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
5. Soil Health: Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)		
5. a. Reducing erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Points	*Document before/after RUSLE2 conditions.* Practices: Crop Rotation (328), Cover Crop (340), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Mulching (484), Residue Management (329), Strip Cropping (585), Terrace (600).

5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Points	*Document increase of SCI (negative to positive, or 25% increase if already positive).* Practices: Animal Trails & Walkways (575), Composting Facility (317), Conservation Cover (327), Cover Crop (340), Deep Tillage (324), Forest Trails & Landings (655), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Mulching (484), Prescribed Grazing (528), Residue Management (329), Field Border (386), Filter Strip (393), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390).
6. Wildlife Habitat - Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)		
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern?	10 Points	*Site evaluation documentation shows the species is present or potentially present.* Practices: Early Successional Habitat (647), Wetland Wildlife (644), Upland Wildlife (645), Riparian Herbaceous Cover(390), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Field Border (386), Restoration and Mgt of Rare and Declining Habitats (643), Structure for Wildlife (649)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or set-aside program?	10 Points	N/A
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Points	Practices with pollinator scenarios: Conservation Cover (327), Contour Buffer Strips (332), Field Border (386), Hedge Row Planting (422). Practices with no specific scenarios - pollinators are listed as targeted species in plan: Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Early Successional Habitat Dev/Mgmt (647).
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Points	Bivalve Aquaculture (400)
7. Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by:		
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Points	Practices: Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Brush Management (314), Tree & Shrub Site Prep (490).
7. b. Implementing practices in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Points	New or revised PMP. Core Practice: Integrated Pest Management (595).
8. Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve energy by: (select all that apply)		
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Points	Practices: Residue Mgt: No-Till (329), Reduced-Till (345), Conversion to grass-based animal operation, or Irrigation Water Management (449).
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Points	Use NOFEI ranking pool. Other Practices: Pumping Plant (533) - PV; Irrigation Water Mgt. (449) - Auto-Start.
9. Business Lines - Will the practices to be scheduled in the "EQIP Plan of Operations" result in:		
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Points	Enhancement (1-2 practices)
Total Maximum Points	**250**	

State Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.		
1.a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 Points	CAP applications only: Answer YES. Go directly to Local question #1.
2. Water Quality - Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (Answer only ONE if applicable.)		
2.a. Implementing practices to help meet state or local REGULATORY notices related to agricultural impacts on water quality?	150 Points	Prioritizes proposals that help address state and local regulatory notices and issues.

2.b. Improving the quality of 303D listed IMPAIRED WATER categories 4-5 (within ¼ mile up-gradient of the designated waters), or DRINKING WATER, Surface Water Zones A-B (within zone and up-gradient), Groundwater Zones 1-2 or IWPAs (within zone)?	125 Points	*May select State 2b or 2d, but not both* . Practices: water quality associated practices (positive CPPE value).
2.c. Improving BIVALVE AQUACULTURE gear and biofoul management in coastal waters?	100 Points	Practices: Access Control (472), Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control (400), Integrated Pest Management (595).
2.d. Improving the quality of OTHER WATER, including designated shellfish growing areas, surface water, aquifers and wells (within 300' up-gradient of surface water or within groundwater zone)?	50 Points	*May select State 2b or 2d, but not both* . Practices: water quality associated practices (positive CPPE value).
3. Water Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve water by:		
3.a. Reducing WATER WITHDRAWAL in a state identified stressed basin, high yield or sole source aquifer; or improving GROUNDWATER RECHARGE in a state identified high or medium yield aquifer??	30 Points	Document location factors. Irrigation Efficiency Practices: Microirrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466), Irrigation Water Management (449), Irrigation Reservoir (436) (tailwater recovery); Infiltration Practices: Filter Strip (393), Field Border (386), Stripcropping (585), Riparian Herbaceous Cover
3.b. Improving irrigation systems resulting in an estimated WATER SAVINGS of > 15%?	30 Points	Document water savings. Practices: Sprinkler Irrigation (441) (improvements), Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466), Irrigation Water Management (449), Irrigation Reservoir (436) (tailwater recovery).
3.c. Automating irrigation systems resulting in water and energy savings?	30 Points	Practices: Irrigation Water Mgt (449) Cranberry Auto-Start scenario
4. Soil Erosion/Soil Health - Will the proposed project:		
4.a. Reduce erosion and sedimentation from CONCENTRATED FLOW?	30 Points	Practices: Diversion (362), Grade Stabilization Structure (410), Grassed Waterway (412), Terrace (600), Sediment Basin (350).
4.b. Increase the Soil Conditioning Index by > 0.30 units?	30 Points	Document before and after values
4.c. Decrease the Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) by 20% or more?	30 Points	Document before and after values
5. Wildlife Habitat - the project will improve habitat for listed species: (Answer only ONE if applicable.)		
5.a. Federally listed	60 Points	*Site evaluation documentation shows the species is present or potentially present.* Practices: Early Successional (647), Wetland Wildlife (644), Upland Wildlife (645), Riparian Herbaceous Cover(390), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Field Border (386), Open Channel (582), Restoration/Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (643).
5.b. State Listed	50 Points	
5.c. Species of Conservation Concern	40 Points	
6. Business Lines - What is the proposed project's likelihood of success:		
6.a. The applicant is leveraging other financial assistance for the proposed project?	10 Points	Confirm funding
6.b. The applicant has failed to implement prior year contracts: ≥ 1 CANCELLED or TERMINATED for non-compliance or cause in the last two years?	-200 Points	NOTE: change from last year (from 2 or more, to 1 or more)
6.c. The applicant has not implemented prior year contracts in a timely manner: > 1 year behind schedule with an active CPA-153 Non-Compliance Agreement issued?	-100 Points	Document status of active CPA-153
Total Maximum Points	**400**	

Local Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering ?Yes? to the following question. Answering ?Yes? to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local priority category.		
1.a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Points	CAP applications only: Answer YES.
2. Water Quality - the proposed project will:		

2.a. Address NUTRIENT/PEST MANAGEMENT concerns impacting water quality?	30 Points	Document water quality concern. Practices: Nutrient Management (590), Integrated Pest Management (595), associated practices recommended in the NMP or IMP plan that impact water resources.
2.b. Restrict animal access to rivers, streams and water bodies?	20 Points	Practices: Access Control (472), Fence (382).
3. Soil & Plant Health - the proposed project will:		
3.a. Establish permanent vegetative practices such as buffers, borders, conservation cover or other plantings?	30 Points	Practices: Conservation Cover (327), Critical Area Planting (342), Field Border (386), Filter Strip (393), Grassed Waterway (412), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), Tree/Shrub Establishment (612).
3.b. Implement management practices on annually tilled cropland, such as: Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Cover Crop (340) and Residue and Tillage Management (329/345)?	20 Points	Practices: Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Contour Farming (330), Cover Crop (340), Deep Tillage (324), Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Integrated Pest Management (595), Nutrient Management (590), Residue and Tillage Management (329, 345), Stripcropping (585).
3.c. Improve existing vegetative cover on other associated lands to meet the conservation objectives of plant communities through practices such as: Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Prescribed Grazing (528), Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490), Restoration and Management of Declining Habitat (643)?	20 Points	Practices: Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Prescribed Grazing (528), Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490), Restoration and Management of Declining Habitat (643)
4. High Tunnels - Site Conditions:		
4.a. The site is optimal, considering sun exposure, water drainage, soil quality and fertility, air drainage, and risk of herbicide or soil pest carry-over.	20 Points	Document site evaluation data
4.b The soils are classified in Hydrologic Soil Group A or B?	20 Points	
4.c. The ground is relatively flat with a slope of 0-3%?	20 Points	
4.d. There is sufficient water available to meet the crop water needs?	20 Points	
5. Sustainable Agriculture - the proposed project will:		
5.a. Enhance LOCAL FOOD through conservation measures (marketed within 100 miles)?	20 Points	Document local market(s)
5.b. Enhance ORGANIC PRODUCTION through conservation measures?	10 Points	Certified, Transitioning or Exempt producers
5.c. Enhance PROTECTED LAND (i.e. APR or CR) through conservation measures?	10 Points	Confirm easement (APR, FRPP, CR).
6. Business Lines - New program participants:		
6.a. The applicant has never received farm bill conservation program funding?	10 Points	No history in ProTracts (2003-present).
Total Maximum Points	**250**	

Application Ranking Summary
Massachusetts FY2017 - DROUGHT MITIGATION

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.		
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)	CAP applications only: Answer YES. Go directly to State question #1.
2. Water Quality Degradation - Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)		
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Points	New or revised CNMP. Core Practice: Nutrient Management (590)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Points	New or revised NMP. Core Practice: Nutrient Management (590)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land ajoining a designated "impaired water body (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Points	Adjacent to 303D catagories 4-5 listed waters; erosion and water quality practices.
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Points	*Adjacent* to Other water.
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Points	Practices: Animal Mortality Facility (316)
3. Water Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)		
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquafer overdraft?	15 Points	Calculated on Irrigation Worksheet; pertains to state identified HIGH YIELD or SOLE SOURCE AQUIFER. Irrigation Efficiency Practices: Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466).
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Points	Practices: Sprinkler Irrigation (441) (improvements), Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466), Irrigation Water Management (449), Irrigation Reservoir (436) (tailwater recovery).
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Points	N/A
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Points	N/A
4. Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)		
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Points	N/A
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)? green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	10 Points	Practices: Anerobic Digester (366), Combustion System Improvement (372), Composting Facility (317); Establishment of: Conservation Cover (327), Cover Crop (340), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Prescribed Grazing (528), Irrigation Water Mgt (449), Residue Mgt., No-Till (329), Tree & Shrub Establishment (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	10 Points	Practices: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Tree & Shrub Estab. (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Points	Practices: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Tree & Shrub Estab. (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
5. Soil Health: Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)		

5. a. Reducing erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Points	*Document before/after RUSLE2 conditions.* Practices: Crop Rotation (328), Cover Crop (340), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Mulching (484), Residue Management (329), Strip Cropping (585), Terrace (600).
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Points	*Document increase of SCI (negative to positive, or 25% increase if already positive).* Practices: Animal Trails & Walkways (575), Composting Facility (317), Conservation Cover (327), Cover Crop (340), Deep Tillage (324), Forest Trails & Landings (655), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Mulching (484), Prescribed Grazing (528), Residue Management (329), Field Border (386), Filter Strip (393), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390).
6. Wildlife Habitat - Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)		
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern?	10 Points	*Site evaluation documentation shows the species is present or potentially present.* Practices: Early Successional Habitat (647), Wetland Wildlife (644), Upland Wildlife (645), Riparian Herbaceous Cover(390), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Field Border (386), Restoration and Mgt of Rare and Declining Habitats (643), Structure for Wildlife (649)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or set-aside program?	10 Points	N/A
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Points	Practices with pollinator scenarios: Conservation Cover (327), Contour Buffer Strips (332), Field Border (386), Hedge Row Planting (422). Practices with no specific scenarios - pollinators are listed as targeted species in plan: Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Early Successional Habitat Dev/Mgmt (647).
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Points	Bivalve Aquaculture (400)
7. Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)		
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Points	Practices: Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Brush Management (314), Tree & Shrub Site Prep (490).
7. b. Implementing practices in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Points	New or revised PMP. Core Practice: Integrated Pest Management (595).
8. Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve energy by: (select all that apply)		
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Points	Practices: Residue Mgt: No-Till (329), Reduced-Till (345), Conversion to grass-based animal operation, or Irrigation Water Management (449).
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Points	Use NOFEI ranking pool. Other Practices: Pumping Plant (533) - PV; Irrigation Water Mgt. (449) - Auto-Start.
9. Business Lines - Will the practices to be scheduled in the "EQIP Plan of Operations" result in:		
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Points	Enhancement (1-2 practices)
Total Maximum Points	**250**	

State Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.		
1.a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 Points	CAP applications only: Answer YES. Go directly to Local question #1.

2. SOIL MOISTURE CONSERVATION - Will the proposed project result in: (Select only ONE, if applicable)		
2.a. Soil Conditioning Index increases > 0.75 units?	100 Points	Document before and after values
2.b. Soil Conditioning Index increases 0.25-0.75 units?	85 Points	
2.c. Soil Conditioning Index increases 0.25 units?	50 Points	
3. LIVESTOCK WATER CONSIDERATIONS - Will the proposed project improve drought risks by:		
3.a. Implementing Prescribed Grazing (528) to adjust intensity, frequency, timing and duration of grazing to meet water needs of plant communities?	80 Points	Prescribed Grazing (528) done on own or through another contract.
3.b. Installing Watering Facilities (614) and other practices needed to provide adequate livestock water?	60 Points	Practices: Groundwater Testing (355), Livestock Pipeline (516), Pond (378), Pond Sealing (521), Spring Development (574), Livestock Nose Pump/Pumping Plant (533), Water Well (642), Watering Facilities (614).
4. IRRIGATED CROPLAND - DROUGHT MITIGATION - Irrigation Planning Worksheet Score (Considers soils, crops, irrigation system and water source)		
4.a. Total score is 45 or greater	100 Points	Use scores from the Irrigation Planning Worksheet, ver. 1-7
4.b. Total score is 42-44	85 Points	
4.c. Total score is 39-41	65 Points	
4.d. Total score is 36-38	40 Points	
4.e. Total score is 33-35	30 Points	
4.f. Total score is 30-32	20 Points	
4.g. Total score is < 30	10 Points	
5. Business Lines - What is the proposed project's likelihood of success:		
5.a. The applicant is leveraging other financial assistance for the proposed project?	60 Points	Confirm funding
5.b. The applicant has failed to implement prior year contracts: ≥ 1 CANCELLED or TERMINATED for non-compliance or cause in the last two years?	-200 Points	NOTE: change from last year (from 2 or more, to 1 or more)
5.c. The applicant has not implemented prior year contracts in a timely manner: > 1 year behind schedule with an active CPA-153 Non-Compliance Agreement issued?	-100 Points	Document status of active CPA-153
Total Maximum Points	**400**	

Local Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering ?Yes? to the following question. Answering ?Yes? to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local priority category.		
1.a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Points	CAP applications only: Answer YES.
2. WATER QUANTITY/WATER CONSERVATION (Select any that apply)		
2.a. Reducing or eliminating the use of public water supply systems to irrigate crops?	50 Points	Document current water source.
2.b. Reducing WATER WITHDRAWAL in a state identified stressed basin, high yield or sole source aquifer; or improving GROUNDWATER RECHARGE in a state identified high or medium yield aquifer??	50 Points	Document location factor. Irrigation Efficiency Practices: Microirrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466), Irrigation Water Management (449), Irrigation Reservoir (436) (tailwater recovery); Infiltration Practices: Filter Strip (393), Field Border (386), Stripcropping (585), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390).
2.c. Improving irrigation system efficiency, resulting in WATER SAVINGS of > 15%?	50 Points	Document water savings. Practices: Sprinkler Irrigation (441) (improvements), Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466), Irrigation Water Management (449), Irrigation Reservoir (436) (tailwater recovery).

2.d. Providing water source and delivery system to meet livestock water needs?	25 Points	Practices: Groundwater Testing (355), Livestock Pipeline (516), Pond (378), Pond Sealing (521), Spring Development (574), Livestock Nose Pump/Pumping Plant (533), Water Well (642), Watering Facilities (614).
3. SOIL HEALTH - Soil Moisture will be enhanced by: (Select any that apply)		
3. a. Implementing Forage & Biomass Planting (512), Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Residue and Tillage Management (329/345) or Cover Crop (340)?	25 Points	Practices: Forage & Biomass Planting (512), Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Cover Crop (340), Residue and Tillage Management (329/345)
4. Sustainable Agriculture - The proposed project will enhance sustainability by: (Select any that apply)		
4.a. Enhancing LOCAL FOOD through conservation measures (marketed within 100 miles)?	20 Points	Document local market(s)
4.b. Enhancing ORGANIC PRODUCTION through conservation measures?	10 Points	Certified, Transitioning or Exempt producers
4.c. Enhancing PROTECTED LAND (i.e. APR or CR) through conservation measures?	10 Points	Confirm easement (APR, FRPP, CR).
5. Business Lines - New program participants:		
5.a. The applicant has never received farm bill conservation program funding?	10 Points	No history in ProTracts (2003-present).
Total Maximum Points	**250**	

Application Ranking Summary
Massachusetts FY2017 - FOREST

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.		
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)	CAP applications only: Answer YES. Go directly to State question #1.
2. Water Quality Degradation - Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)		
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Points	New or revised CNMP. Core Practice: Nutrient Management (590)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Points	New or revised NMP. Core Practice: Nutrient Management (590)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land ajoining a designated "impaired water body (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Points	*Adjacent* to 303D catagories 4-5 listed waters; erosion and water quality practices.
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Points	*Adjacent* to Other water.
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Points	Practices: Animal Mortality Facility (316)
3. Water Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)		
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquafer overdraft?	15 Points	Calculated on Irrigation Worksheet; pertains to state identified HIGH YIELD or SOLE SOURCE AQUIFER. Irrigation Efficiency Practices: Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466).
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Points	Practices: Sprinkler Irrigation (441) (improvements), Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466), Irrigation Water Management (449), Irrigation Reservoir (436) (tailwater recovery).
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Points	N/A
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Points	N/A
4. Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)		
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Points	N/A
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)? green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	10 Points	Practice: Tree & Shrub Establishment (612)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	10 Points	Practices: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Tree & Shrub Estab. (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Points	Practices: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Tree & Shrub Estab. (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
5. Soil Health: Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)		

5. a. Reducing erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Points	*Document before/after RUSLE2 conditions.* Practices: Crop Rotation (328), Cover Crop (340), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Mulching (484), Residue Management (329), Strip Cropping (585), Terrace (600).
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Points	*Document increase of SCI (negative to positive, or 25% increase if already positive).* Practices: Animal Trails & Walkways (575), Composting Facility (317), Conservation Cover (327), Cover Crop (340), Deep Tillage (324), Forest Trails & Landings (655), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Mulching (484), Prescribed Grazing (528), Residue Management (329), Field Border (386), Filter Strip (393), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390).
6. Wildlife Habitat - Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)		
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern?	10 Points	*Site evaluation documentation shows the species is present or potentially present.* Practices: Early Successional Habitat (647), Wetland Wildlife (644), Upland Wildlife (645), Riparian Herbaceous Cover(390), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Field Border (386), Restoration and Mgt of Rare and Declining Habitats (643), Structure for Wildlife (649)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or set-aside program?	10 Points	N/A
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Points	Practices with pollinator scenarios: Conservation Cover (327), Contour Buffer Strips (332), Field Border (386), Hedge Row Planting (422). Practices with no specific scenarios - pollinators are listed as targeted species in plan: Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Early Successional Habitat Dev/Mgmt (647).
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Points	Bivalve Aquaculture (400)
7. Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)		
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management or control noxious or invasive plant	10 Points	Practices: Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Brush Management (314), Tree &
7. b. Implementing practices in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Points	New or revised PMP. Core Practice: Integrated Pest Management (595).
8. Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve energy by: (select all that apply)		
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Points	Practices: Residue Mgt: No-Till (329), Reduced-Till (345), Conversion to grass-based animal operation, or Irrigation Water Management (449).
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Points	Use NOFEI ranking pool. Other Practices: Pumping Plant (533) - PV; Irrigation Water Mgt. (449) - Auto-Start.
9. Business Lines - Will the practices to be scheduled in the "EQIP Plan of Operations" result in:		
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Points	Enhancement (1-2 practices)
Total Maximum Points	**250**	

State Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering ?Yes? to the following question. Answering ?Yes? to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.		

1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 points	CAP applications only: Answer YES. Go directly to Local question #1.
2. BIOMAP2 - Is the project located in either of the following Biomap 2 areas: (Answer only one; the dominant factor in the project area)		
2.a. Forest Core	45 Points	Select the answer that covers the largest area of the proposed project.
2.b. Supporting Landscape Blocks	30 Points	
3. SITE QUALITY- The dominant Prime Forest Land Soil in the project area, according to the GIS data layer, is (Answer only one):		
3.a. Prime 1	55 Points	Select the answer that covers the largest area of the proposed project.
3.b. Prime 2	40 Points	
3.c. Prime 3/ Prime Wet	10 Points	
4. WATER QUALITY: Does the application address existing forest road/trail erosion, where the sediment is moving towards a resource area? If yes, answer only one:		
4.a. Within 100 ft from a stream, pond or wetland.	60 Points	Practice: Forest trails & Landings (578). Stream can be a hydrologic connection on GIS layer, or other intermittent stream, identified by the planner.
4.b. Greater than 100 ft from a stream, pond or wetland.	20 Points	
5. FOREST DIVERSITY- Does the application improve growing conditions and/or promote diverse age classes on the property via: (Select only one- the answer associated with the greatest economic portion of the application.)		
5.a. Patch cut, sized 2 ac to 4.9 ac	145 Points	Select only one: The highest ranking scenario that is planned.
5.b. Crop tree release/ Thinning/ Group selection	140 Points	
5.c. Pre-commercial thinning	105 Points	
5.d. Creating old growth characteristics	60 Points	
6. FOREST REGENERATION - Does the application include practices that promote desirable, native regeneration?		
6.a. Undesirable regeneration (native and/or exotic) is treated (314)?	40 Points	Practice: Brush management (314) in forest land; for control of invasive species control or other undesirable plants, such as beech or striped maple.
6.b. Tree/Shrub establishment (612)?	20 Points	Practice: Tree/shrub establishment (612) in the forest.
7. NON-COMMERCIAL CUTS - Does the project area target younger stands where non-commercial cutting is benefitial?		
7.a. The mean stand diameter in the project area is ≤ 6"?	20 Points	Look at the MSD in the forest management.
8. BUSINESS LINES - (Select all that apply)		
8.a. The applicant has implemented a silvicultural prescription involving cutting trees in the last 10 years?	15 Points	Confirm funding
8.b. The applicant has failed to implement prior year contracts: ≥ 1 CANCELLED or TERMINATED for non-compliance or cause in the last two years?	-200 Points	NOTE: change from last year (from 2 or more, to 1 or more)
8.c. The applicant has not implemented past contracts in a timely manner: > 1 year behind schedule with a CPA-153 Non-Compliance Agreement issued?	-100 Points	Document status of active CPA-153
Total Maximum Points	**400**	

Local Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering ?Yes? to the following question. Answering ?Yes? to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local priority category.		

1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Points	CAP applications only: Answer YES.
2. ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE - The project is located in the following rating for forest Functions, Values and Benefits, according to Figure 5.5 of the *Assessment of Forest Resources in MA*, per the GIS layer. (Answer only one; the dominant rating in the project area)		
2.a. Very High or High; Moderate in the Westford, W.Wareham and W. Yarmouth FO areas	60 Points	Select the answer that covers the largest area of the proposed project.
2.b. Moderate; Low in the Westford, W.Wareham and W. Yarmouth FO areas	30 Points	
3. FOREST HEALTH - DAMAGED STAND (Answer only if applicable)		
3a. Does the application rehabilitate a stand damaged by a major storm (i.e. ice, tornado, hurricane)? Must be documented in the forest management plan and concurred by DCR.	60 Points	Must be documented in the forest management plan.
4. INVASIVE SPECIES - INFESTATION If the project includes treatment of invasive species, describe the severity of infestation (Select one, if applicable):		
4.a. LOW - distribution low, early infestation, minimal adjacent seed sources	85 Points	Evaluate the site to determine its priority using "Catch them early…" graph by Ellen Jacquart, The Nature Conservancy. Practices: Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Brush Management (314), Tree & Shrub Site Prep (490), Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgt. (645).
4.b. MEDIUM - distribution is established in scattered areas across the site; several adjacent seed sources	50 Points	
4.c. HIGH - widely distributed and well established across the site; several adjacent seed sources	10 Points	
5. INVASIVE SPECIES - TREATMENT		
5.a. The proposed project includes two or more years of invasives control?	10 Points	Practice: Brush management (314) - with follow-up scenario
5.b. Non-treatment of existing invasive species in a cutting project area threatens to become a future resource concern?	-25 Points	Invasives species are present in a 647 or 666 practice location but are not being treated. The infestation is heavy enough that it will take off and be a concern.
6. Business Lines - New program participants:		
6.a. The applicant has never received farm bill conservation program funding?	35 Points	
Total Maximum Points	**250**	

Application Ranking Summary
Massachusetts FY2017 - GENERAL EQIP

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.		
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)	CAP applications only: Answer YES. Go directly to State question #1.
2. Water Quality Degradation - Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)		
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Points	New or revised CNMP. Core Practice: Nutrient Management (590)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Points	New or revised NMP. Core Practice: Nutrient Management (590)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land ajoining a designated "impaired water body (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Points	*Adjacent* to 303D catagories 4-5 listed waters; erosion and water quality practices.
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Points	*Adjacent* to Other water.
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Points	Practices: Animal Mortality Facility (316)
3. Water Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)		
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquafer overdraft?	15 Points	Calculated on Irrigation Worksheet; pertains to state identified HIGH YIELD or SOLE SOURCE AQUIFER. Irrigation Efficiency Practices: Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466).
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Points	Practices: Sprinkler Irrigation (441) (improvements), Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466), Irrigation Water Management (449), Irrigation Reservoir (436) (tailwater recovery).
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Points	N/A
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Points	N/A
4. Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)		
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Points	N/A
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)? green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	10 Points	Practices: Anerobic Digester (366), Combustion System Improvement (372), Composting Facility (317); Establishment of: Conservation Cover (327), Cover Crop (340), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Prescribed Grazing (528), Irrigation Water Mgt (449), Residue Mgt., No-Till (329), Tree & Shrub Establishment (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	10 Points	Practices: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Tree & Shrub Estab. (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Points	Practices: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Tree & Shrub Estab. (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
5. Soil Health: Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)		
5. a. Reducing erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Points	*Document before/after RUSLE2 conditions.* Practices: Crop Rotation (328), Cover Crop (340), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Mulching (484), Residue Management (329), Strip Cropping (585), Terrace (600).

5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Points	*Document increase of SCI (negative to positive, or 25% increase if already positive).* Practices: Animal Trails & Walkways (575), Composting Facility (317), Conservation Cover (327), Cover Crop (340), Deep Tillage (324), Forest Trails & Landings (655), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Mulching (484), Prescribed Grazing (528), Residue Management (329), Field Border (386), Filter Strip (393), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390).
6. Wildlife Habitat - Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)		
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern?	10 Points	*Site evaluation documentation shows the species is present or potentially present.* Practices: Early Successional Habitat (647), Wetland Wildlife (644), Upland Wildlife (645), Riparian Herbaceous Cover(390), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Field Border (386), Restoration and Mgt of Rare and Declining Habitats (643), Structure for Wildlife (649)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or set-aside program?	10 Points	N/A
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Points	Practices with pollinator scenarios: Conservation Cover (327), Contour Buffer Strips (332), Field Border (386), Hedge Row Planting (422). Practices with no specific scenarios - pollinators are listed as targeted species in plan: Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Early Successional Habitat Dev/Mgmt (647).
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Points	Bivalve Aquaculture (400)
7. Plant and Animal Communities. Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)		
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Points	Practices: Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Brush Management (314), Tree & Shrub Site Prep (490).
7. b. Implementing practices in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Points	New or revised PMP. Core Practice: Integrated Pest Management (595).
8. Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve energy by: (select all that apply)		
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Points	Practices: Residue Mgt: No-Till (329), Reduced-Till (345), Conversion to grass-based animal operation, or Irrigation Water Management (449).
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Points	Use NOFEI ranking pool. Other Practices: Pumping Plant (533) - PV; Irrigation Water Mgt. (449) - Auto-Start.
9. Business Lines - Will the practices to be scheduled in the "EQIP Plan of Operations" result in:		
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Points	Enhancement (1-2 practices)
Total Maximum Points	**250**	

State Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering ?Yes? to the following question. Answering ?Yes? to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.		
1.a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 Points	CAP applications only: Answer YES. Go directly to Local question #1.
2. Water Quality Degradation - Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (answer only one, if applicable)		
2.a. Implementing practices to help meet state or local REGULATORY notices related to agricultural impacts on water quality?	150 Points	Prioritizes proposals that help address state and local regulatory notices and issues.

2.b. Improving the quality of 303D listed IMPAIRED WATER categories 4-5 (within ¼ mile up-gradient of the designated waters), or DRINKING WATER, Surface Water Zones A-B (within zone and up-gradient), Groundwater Zones 1-2 or IWPAs (within zone)?	125 Points	May select State 2b or 2e, but not both. Practices: water quality associated practices (positive CPPE value).
2.c. Improving BIVALVE AQUACULTURE gear and biofoul management in coastal waters?	100 Points	Practices: Access Control (472), Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control (400), Integrated Pest Management (595).
2.d. Implementing a CNMP to reduce animal source pollution through practices such as: Composting Facility (317), Waste Storage (313), Heavy Use Area Protection (561), Roofs and Covers (367)?	75 Points	Practices: Anaerobic Digestor (366), Animal Mortality Facility (316), Composting Facility (317), Diversion (362), Emergency Animal Mortality Management (368), Heavy Use Area Protection (561), Nutrient Management w/ manure (590), Roof Runoff Structure (558), Roofs and Covers (367), Vegetative Treatment Area (635), Waste Facility Closure (360), Waste Separation Facility (632), Waste Storage (313), Waste Transfer (634), Waste Treatment (629).
2.e. Improving the quality of OTHER WATER, including designated shellfish growing areas, surface water, aquifers and wells (within 300' up-gradient of surface water or within groundwater zone)?	50 Points	May select State 2b or 2e, but not both. Practices: water quality associated practices (positive CPPE value).
3. Water Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply.)		
3.a. Reducing WATER WITHDRAWAL in a state identified stressed basin, high yield or sole source aquifer; or improving GROUNDWATER RECHARGE in a state identified high or medium yield aquifer??	50 Points	Document location factor. Irrigation Efficiency Practices: Microirrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466), Irrigation Water Management (449), Irrigation Reservoir (436) (tailwater recovery); Infiltration Practices: Filter Strip (393), Field Border (386), Stripcropping (585), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390).
3.b. Improving irrigation OR livestock watering systems resulting in an estimated WATER SAVINGS of > 15%?	50 Points	Document water savings. Practices: Sprinkler Irrigation (441) (improvements), Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466), Irrigation Water Management (449), Irrigation Reservoir (436) (tailwater recovery).
3.c. Automating irrigation systems resulting in water and energy savings?	25 Points	Practice: Irrigation Water Mgt (449) Cranberry Auto-Start scenario
4. Soil Erosion/Soil Health - Will the proposed project: (select all that apply.)		
4.a. Reduce erosion and sedimentation from CONCENTRATED FLOW?	30 Points	Practices: Diversion (362), Grade Stabilization Structure (410), Grassed Waterway (412), Terrace (600), Sediment Basin (350).
4.b. Increase SCI values or decrease STIR values?	25 Points	Document before and after values
5. Livestock Production Limitations - The project will: (select any that apply.)		
5.a. Address water quality, air quality, and human/animal health concerns by implementing Animal Mortality Facility (316) or Emergency Animal Mortality Management (368)?	25 Points	Practices: Animal Mortality Facility (316) or Emergency Animal Mortality Management (368)
5.b. Address insufficient feed and forage, stock water and shelter through practices such as Brush Management (314), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Forage Harvest Management (511), Prescribed Grazing (580), Pond (378), Watering Facility (614), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)?	25 Points	Practices: Brush Management (314), Fence (382, Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Forage Harvest Management (511), Livestock Pipeline (516), Prescribed Grazing (580), Pond (378), Silvo-pasture (381), Spring Development (574), Trails & Walkways (575), Watering Facility (614), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380).

6. Wildlife Habitat - Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat for: (select all that apply.)		
6.a. Federally Listed species	30 Points	*Site evaluation documentation shows the species is present or potentially present.* Practices: Early Successional (647), Wetland Wildlife (644), Upland Wildlife (645), Riparian Herbaceous Cover(390), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Field Border (386), Open Channel (582), Restoration/Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (643).
6.b. State Listed species	20 Points	
6.c. Species of Conservation Concern	10 Points	
7. INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL - The project provides invasive species control in areas with: (answer only one, if applicable.)		
7.a. LOW INTENSITY - distribution low, early infestation, minimal adjacent seed sources	50 Points	Evaluate the site to determine its priority using "Catch them early…" graph by Ellen Jacquart, The Nature Conservancy. Practices: Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Brush Management (314), Tree & Shrub Site Prep (490), Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgt. (645).
7.b. MEDIUM INTENSITY - distribution is established in scattered areas across the site; several adjacent seed sources	40 Points	
7.c. HIGH INTENSITY - widely distributed and well established across the site; several adjacent seed sources	20 Points	
8. Business Lines - What is the proposed project's likelihood of success:		
8.a. The applicant is leveraging other financial assistance for the proposed project?	10 Points	Confirm funding
8.b. The applicant has failed to implement prior year contracts: ≥ 1 CANCELLED or TERMINATED for non-compliance or cause in the last two years?	-200 Points	NOTE: change from last year (from 2 or more, to 1 or more)
8.c. The applicant has not implemented past contracts in a timely manner: > 1 year behind schedule with an active CPA-153 Non-Compliance Agreement issued?	-100 Points	Document status of active CPA-153
Total Maximum Points	**400**	

Local Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering ?Yes? to the following question. Answering ?Yes? to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local priority category.		
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Points	CAP applications only: Answer YES.
2. Water Quality - Will the proposed project improve water quality by:		
2.a. Addressing NUTRIENT/PEST MANAGEMENT concerns impacting water quality?	35 Points	Document water quality concern. Practices: Nutrient Management (590), Integrated Pest Management (595), associated practices recommended in the NMP or IMP plan that impact water resources.
2.b. Restricting animal access to rivers, streams and water bodies?	25 Points	Practices: Access Control (472), Fence (382).
3. Soil & Plant Health - the proposed project will:		
3.a. Establish permanent vegetative practices such as buffers, borders, conservation cover or other plantings?	30 Points	Practices: Conservation Cover (327), Critical Area Planting (342), Field Border (386), Filter Strip (393), Grassed Waterway (412), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), Tree/Shrub Establishment (612).
3.b. Implement management practices on annually tilled cropland, such as: Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Cover Crop (340) and Residue and Tillage Management (329) or (345)?	20 Points	Practices: Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Contour Farming (330), Cover Crop (340), Deep Tillage (324), Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Integrated Pest Management (595), Nutrient Management (590), Residue and Tillage Management (329, 345), Stripcropping (585).
3.c. Improve existing vegetative cover on other associated lands to meet the conservation objectives of plant communities through practices such as: Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Prescribed Grazing (528), Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490), Restoration and Management of Declining Habitat (643)?	20 Points	Practices: Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Prescribed Grazing (528), Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490), Restoration and Management of Declining Habitat (643)

4. Forest Management - Does the application improve growing conditions and/or promote diverse age classes, or desirable native regeneration through any of the following:		
4.a. Patch cut, sized 2 ac to 4.9 ac	15 Points	
4.b. Crop tree release/ Thinning/ Group selection	15 Points	
4.c. Pre-commercial thinning	15 Points	
4.d. Creating old growth characteristics	15 Points	
4.e. Undesirable regeneration (native and/or exotic) is treated (314)?	15 Points	
4.f. Tree/Shrub establishment (612)?	15 Points	
4.g. Non-commercial cut where the mean stand diameter in the project area is ≤ 6"?	15 Points	
5. High Tunnels - Site Conditions:		
5.a. The site is optimal, considering sun exposure, water drainage, soil quality and fertility, air	15 Points	Document site evaluation data
5.b The soils are classified in Hydrologic Soil Group A or B?	15 Points	
5.c. The ground is relatively flat with a slope of 0-3%?	15 Points	
5.d. There is sufficient water available to meet the crop water needs?	15 Points	
6. Sustainable Agriculture: The proposed project will enhance sustainability by:		
6.a. Converting a confined animal operation to a grass based animal feeding operation?	15 Points	Document conversion. Practices: Trails & Walkways (575), Fence (382, Prescribed Grazing (528), Livestock Pipeline (516), Silvo-pasture (381), Spring Development (574), Watering Facility (614).
6.b. Improving PROTECTED LAND (i.e. APR or CR)?	15 Points	Confirm easement (APR, FRPP, CR).
6.c. Providing local/organic products to enhance rural economy?	15 Points	Certified, Transitioning or Exempt producers marketing locally
7. Business Lines - New program participants:		
7.a. The applicant has never received farm bill conservation program funding?	10 Points	No history in ProTracts (2003-present).
Total Maximum Points	**250**	

Application Ranking Summary
Massachusetts FY2017 - LIVESTOCK

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.		
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)	CAP applications only: Answer YES. Go directly to State question #1.
2. Water Quality Degradation - Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)		
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Points	New or revised CNMP. Core Practice: Nutrient Management (590)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Points	New or revised NMP. Core Practice: Nutrient Management (590)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land ajoining a designated "impaired water body (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Points	*Adjacent* to 303D catagories 4-5 listed waters; erosion and water quality practices.
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Points	*Adjacent* to Other water.
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Points	Practices: Animal Mortality Facility (316)
3. Water Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)		
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquafer overdraft?	15 Points	Calculated on Irrigation Worksheet; pertains to state identified HIGH YIELD or SOLE SOURCE AQUIFER. Irrigation Efficiency Practices: Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466).
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Points	Practices: Sprinkler Irrigation (441) (improvements), Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466), Irrigation Water Management (449), Irrigation Reservoir (436) (tailwater recovery).
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Points	N/A
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Points	N/A
4. Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)		
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Points	N/A
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)? green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	10 Points	Practices: Anerobic Digester (366), Combustion System Improvement (372), Composting Facility (317); Establishment of: Conservation Cover (327), Cover Crop (340), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Prescribed Grazing (528), Irrigation Water Mgt (449), Residue Mgt., No-Till (329), Tree & Shrub Establishment (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	10 Points	Practices: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Tree & Shrub Estab. (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Points	Practices: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Tree & Shrub Estab. (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
5. Soil Health: Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)		

5. a. Reducing erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Points	*Document before/after RUSLE2 conditions.* Practices: Crop Rotation (328), Cover Crop (340), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Mulching (484), Residue Management (329), Strip Cropping (585), Terrace (600).
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Points	*Document increase of SCI (negative to positive, or 25% increase if already positive).* Practices: Animal Trails & Walkways (575), Composting Facility (317), Conservation Cover (327), Cover Crop (340), Deep Tillage (324), Forest Trails & Landings (655), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Mulching (484), Prescribed Grazing (528), Residue Management (329), Field Border (386), Filter Strip (393), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390).
6. Wildlife Habitat - Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)		
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern?	10 Points	*Site evaluation documentation shows the species is present or potentially present.* Practices: Early Successional Habitat (647), Wetland Wildlife (644), Upland Wildlife (645), Riparian Herbaceous Cover(390), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Field Border (386), Restoration and Mgt of Rare and Declining Habitats (643), Structure for Wildlife (649)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or set-aside program?	10 Points	N/A
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Points	Practices with pollinator scenarios: Conservation Cover (327), Contour Buffer Strips (332), Field Border (386), Hedge Row Planting (422). Practices with no specific scenarios - pollinators are listed as targeted species in plan: Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Early Successional Habitat Dev/Mgmt (647).
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Points	Bivalve Aquaculture (400)
7. Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)		
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Points	Practices: Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Brush Management (314), Tree & Shrub Site Prep (490).
7. b. Implementing practices in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Points	New or revised PMP. Core Practice: Integrated Pest Management (595).
8. Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve energy by: (select all that apply)		
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Points	Practices: Residue Mgt: No-Till (329), Reduced-Till (345), Conversion to grass-based animal operation, or Irrigation Water Management (449).
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Points	Use NOFEI ranking pool. Other Practices: Pumping Plant (533) - PV; Irrigation Water Mgt. (449) - Auto-Start.
9. Business Lines - Will the practices to be scheduled in the "EQIP Plan of Operations" result in:		
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Points	Enhancement (1-2 practices)
Total Maximum Points	**250**	

State Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering ?Yes? to the following question. Answering ?Yes? to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of		
1.a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 Points	CAP applications only: Answer YES. Go directly to Local question #1.

2. Water Quality Degradation - Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (Answer only ONE if applicable.)		
2.a. Implementing practices to help meet state or local REGULATORY notices related to ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS impacts on water quality?	150 Points	Prioritizes proposals that help address state and local regulatory notices and issues.
2.b. Improving the quality of 303D listed IMPAIRED WATER categories 4-5 (within ¼ mile up-gradient of the designated waters), or DRINKING WATER, Surface Water Zones A-B (within zone and up-gradient), Groundwater Zones 1-2 or IWPAs (within zone)?	125 Points	May select State 2b or 2c, but not both. Practices: water quality associated practices (positive CPPE value).
2.c. Improving the quality of OTHER WATER, including designated shellfish growing areas, surface water, aquifers and wells (within 300' up-gradient of surface water or within groundwater zone)?	75 Points	May select State 2b or 2c, but not both. Practices: water quality associated practices (positive CPPE value).
3. Livestock Production Limitation - Will the proposed project improve feed and forage quality or quantity by:		
3.a. Address water quality, air quality, and human/animal health concerns by implementing Animal Mortality Facitlity (316) or Emergency Animal Mortality Management (368)?	65 Points	Practices: Animal Mortality Facility (316) or Emergency Animal Mortality Management (368)
3.b. Addressing insufficient feed and forage, stock water and shelter through practices such as Brush Management (314), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Forage Harvest Management (511), Prescribed Grazing (528), Pond (378), Watering Facility (614), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)?	50 Points	Practices: Brush Management (314), Fence (382, Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Forage Harvest Management (511), Livestock Pipeline (516), Prescribed Grazing (580), Pond (378), Silvo-pasture (381), Spring Development (574), Trails & Walkways (575), Watering Facility (614), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380).
4. Soil Erosion/Soil Health - Will the proposed project:		
4.a. Reducing erosion from CONCENTRATED FLOW?	40 Points	Practices: Diversion (362), Grade Stabilization Structure (410), Grassed Waterway (412), Terrace (600), Sediment Basin (350).
4.b. Reducing soil contaminants from animal waste and other organics?	30 Points	Document soil test results. Practices: Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Cover Crop (340), Contour Buffer Strips (332), Filter Strip (393), Nutrient Management (590), Residue and Tillage Management (329, 345).
4.c. Increasing SCI values or decreasing STIR values on cropland?	30 Points	Document before and after values
5. Wildlife Habitat - Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (Answer only ONE if applicable.)		
5.a. Federally listed	40 Points	*Site evaluation documentation shows the species is present or potentially present.* Practices: Early Successional (647), Wetland Wildlife (644), Upland Wildlife (645), Riparian Herbaceous Cover(390), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Field Border (386), Open Channel (582), Restoration/Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (643).
5.b. State Listed	30 Points	
5.c. Species of Conservation Concern	20 Points	
6. INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL - The project provides invasive species control in areas with:: (answer only one, if applicable)		
6.a. LOW INTENSITY - distribution low, early infestation, minimal adjacent seed sources	40 Points	Evaluate the site to determine its priority using "Catch them early…" graph by Ellen Jacquart, The Nature Conservancy. Practices: Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Brush Management (314), Tree & Shrub Site Prep (490), Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgt. (645).
6.b. MEDIUM INTENSITY - distribution is established in scattered areas across the site; several adjacent seed sources	25 Points	
6.c. HIGH INTENSITY - widely distributed and well established across the site; several adjacent seed sources	10 Points	
7. Business Lines - What is the proposed project's likelihood of success: (select all that apply)		
7.a. The applicant is leveraging other financial assistance for the proposed project?	15 Points	Confirm funding
7.b. The applicant has failed to implement prior year contracts: ≥ 1 CANCELLED or TERMINATED for non-compliance or cause in the last two years?	-200 Points	NOTE: change from last year (from 2 or more, to 1 or more)
7.c. The applicant has not implemented past contracts in a timely manner: > 1 year behind schedule with an active CPA-153 Non-Compliance Agreement issued?	-100 Points	Document status of active CPA-153
Total Maximum Points	**400**	

Local Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering ?Yes? to the following question. Answering ?Yes? to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local priority category.		
1.a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Points	CAP applications only: Answer YES.
2. Water Quality Degradation - Will the proposed project improve water quality by:		
2.a. Implementing a CNMP to reduce animal source pollution through practices such as: Composting Facility (317), Waste Storage (313), Heavy Use Area Protection (561), Roofs and Covers (367), Vegetative Treatment Areas (635), Filter Strips (393), Nutrient Management (590)?	40 Points	Practices: Anaerobic Digestor (366), Animal Mortality Facility (316), Composting Facility (317), Diversion (362), Emergency Animal Mortality Management (368), Heavy Use Area Protection (561), Nutrient Management w/ manure (590), Roof Runoff Structure (558), Roofs and Covers (367), Vegetative Treatment Area (635), Waste Facility Closure (360), Waste Separation Facility (632), Waste Storage (313), Waste Transfer (634), Waste Treatment (629).
2.b. Restricting animal access to rivers, streams and water bodies?	30 Points	Practices: Access Control (472), Fence (382).
3. Livestock Production Limitation - Will the proposed project improve limitations by:		
3.a. Implementing Prescribed Grazing (528) to adjust intensity, frequency, timing and duration of grazing to meet desired objectives of plant communitites?	30 Points	Practice: Prescribed Grazing (528).
3.b. Installing animal Watering Facilities (614) to provide adequate livestock water?	20 Points	Practices: Livestock Pipeline (516), Pond, (378), Spring Development (574), Watering Facility (614).
4. Soil Erosion/Soil Health: Will the proposed project improve soil health by:		
4. a. Implementing Forage & Biomass Planting (512), Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Residue and Tillage Management (329/345), or Cover Crop (340)?	30 Points	Practices: Forage & Biomass Planting (512), Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Residue and Tillage Management (329/345), or Cover Crop (340)
4. b. Installing animal Trails & Walkways (575) to address erosion and compaction concerns?	20 Points	Practice: Trails & Walkways (575)
5. Sustainable Agriculture: The proposed project enhances sustainability by:		
5.a. Converting a confined animal operation to a grass based animal feeding operation?	30 Points	Document conversion. Practices: Trails & Walkways (575), Fence (382, Prescribed Grazing (528), Livestock Pipeline (516), Silvo-pasture (381), Spring Development (574), Watering Facility (614).
5.b. Improving PROTECTED LAND (i.e. APR or CR)?	20 Points	Confirm easement (APR, FRPP, CR).
5.c. Providing local/organic products to enhance rural economy?	20 Points	Certified, Transitioning or Exempt producers marketing locally
6. Business Lines - New program participants		
6.a. The applicant has never received farm bill conservation program funding?	10 Points	No history in ProTracts (2003-present).
Total Maximum Points	**250**	

Application Ranking Summary
Massachusetts FY2017 - SOIL HEALTH

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of		
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)	CAP applications only: Answer YES. Go directly to State question #1.
2. Water Quality Degradation - Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)		
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Points	New or revised CNMP. Practice: Nutrient Management (590)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Points	New or revised NMP. Practice: Nutrient Management (590)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land ajoining a designated "impaired water body (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Points	*Adjacent* to 303D catagories 4-5 listed waters; erosion and water quality practices.
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Points	*Adjacent* to Other water.
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Points	N/A
3. Water Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)		
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquafer overdraft?	15 Points	N/A
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Points	N/A
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Points	N/A
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Points	N/A
4. Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)		
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Points	N/A
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)? green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	10 Points	Practices: Establishment of: Conservation Cover (327), Cover Crop (340), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Residue Mgt., No-Till (329).
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	10 Points	Practice: Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Points	Practice: Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
5. Soil Health: Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)		
5. a. Reducing erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Points	*Document before/after RUSLE2 conditions.* Practices: Crop Rotation (328), Cover Crop (340), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Mulching (484), Residue Management (329), Strip Cropping (585)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Points	*Document increase of SCI (negative to positive, or 25% increase if already positive).* Practices: Conservation Cover (327), Cover Crop (340), Deep Tillage (324), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Mulching (484), Residue Management (329), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390).
6. Wildlife Habitat - Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)		

6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern?	10 Points	*Site evaluation documentation shows the species is present or potentially present.* Practices: Riparian Herbaceous Cover(390), Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or set-aside program?	10 Points	N/A
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Points	Practices with pollinator scenarios: Conservation Cover (327), Contour Buffer Strips (332).
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Points	N/A
7. Plant and Animal Communities. Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)		
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Points	N/A
7. b. Implementing practices in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Points	N/A
8. Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve energy by: (select all that apply)		
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Points	Practices: Residue Mgt: No-Till (329), Reduced-Till (345).
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Points	N/A
9. Business Lines - Will the practices to be scheduled in the "EQIP Plan of Operations" result in:		
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Points	Enhancement (1-2 practices)
Total Maximum Points	**250**	

State Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of		
1.a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	400 Points	CAP applications only: Answer YES. Go directly to Local question #1.
2. Water Quality - impact of the project area on state designated water resources: (Select only ONE, if applicable)		
2.a. More than 75% of the area enrolled impacts 303D listed IMPAIRED WATER categories 4-5 (within ¼ mile up- gradient of the designated waters), or DRINKING WATER, Surface Water Zones A-B (within zone and up-gradient), Groundwater Zones 1-2 or IWPAs (within zone)?	100 Points	Document location factors and percentage of acres enrolled. All approved practices.
2.b. Between 50% and 75% of the area enrolled impacts 303D listed IMPAIRED WATER	85 Points	
2.c. At least one field enrolled will impacts 303D listed IMPAIRED WATER categories 4-5 (within ¼ mile up- gradient of the designated waters), or DRINKING WATER, Surface Water Zones A-B (within zone and up-gradient), Groundwater Zones 1-2 or IWPAs (within zone)?	60 Points	
2.d. More than 75% of the area enrolled impacts OTHER WATER, including designated shellfish growing areas, surface water, aquifers and wells (within 300' up-gradient of surface water or within groundwater zone)?	50 Points	

2.e. Between 50% and 75% of the area enrolled impacts OTHER WATER, including designated shellfish growing areas, surface water, aquifers and wells (within 300' up-gradient of surface water or within groundwater zone)?	40 Points	
2.f. At least one field enrolled will impacts OTHER WATER, including designated shellfish growing	30 Points	
3. BEFORE and AFTER SCENARIOS - the proposed project will: (Select only ONE, if applicable)		
3.a. Increase Soil Conditioning Index by > 0.75 units?	100 Points	Document before and after values
3.b. Increase Soil Conditioning Index by 0.25-0.75 units?	60 Points	
3.c. Increase Soil Conditioning Index by 0.25 units?	40 Points	
4. BUFFERS: (Select any that apply)		
4.a. Establishing RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFERS (391) for resiliance against storm damage?	100 Points	Practices: Riparian Forest Buffers (391), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390).
4.b. Establishing buffers or borders within or adjacent to annually tilled cropland?	50 Points	Practices: Contour Buffer Strips (332), Riparian Forest Buffers (391), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390).
4.c. The establishment of buffers requires a conversion of annual crop acres?	50 Points	Document conversion via plan map and area/acreage.
5. BUSINESS LINES		
5.a. The applicant has failed to implement prior year contracts: ≥ 1 CANCELLED or TERMINATED for non-compliance or cause in the last two years?	-200 Points	NOTE: change from last year (from 2 or more, to 1 or more)
5.b. The applicant has not implemented past contracts in a timely manner: > 1 year behind schedule with an active CPA-153 Non-Compliance Agreement issued?	-100 Points	Document status of active CPA-153
Total Maximum Points	**400**	

Local Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering ?Yes? to the following question. Answering ?Yes? to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of		
1.a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other local level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Points	CAP applications only: Answer YES.
2. Water Quality - the proposed project will include: (Select any that apply)		
2.a. NUTRIENT/PEST MANAGEMENT to address water quality concerns?	80 Points	Practice: *Only 590 is available in this funding pool.
3. Soil Health -the proposed project will include: (Select any that apply)		
3.a. Conservation Crop Rotation (328) and Cover Crop (340)?	30 Points	Practices: Conservation Crop Rotation (328) and Cover Crop (340)
3.b. Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (329)?	30 Points	Practice: Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (329)
3.d. Adaptive management for Cover Crop (340) or Residue and Tillage Management (329/345)?	30 Points	Practice: Adaptive management scenario only for Cover Crop (340), Residue and Tillage Management (329 or 345)
3.c. Enhancement to Cover Crop (340) - the participant will not be harvesting the cover crop?	30 Points	Document producer's decision and field check implementation.
4. Sustainable Agriculture - The proposed project will enhance sustainability by: (Select any that apply)		
4.a. Enhancing LOCAL FOOD through conservation measures (marketed within 100 miles)?	10 Points	Document local market(s)
4.b. Enhancing ORGANIC PRODUCTION through conservation measures?	10 Points	Certified, Transitioning or Exempt producers
4.c. Enhancing PROTECTED LAND (i.e. APR or CR) through conservation measures?	10 Points	Confirm easement (APR, FRPP, CR).

5. Business Lines - New program participants:		
5.a. The applicant has never received farm bill conservation program funding?	10 Points	No history in ProTracts (2003-present).
5.b. The applicant is leveraging other financial assistance for the proposed project?	10 Points	Confirm funding
Total Maximum Points	**250**	

Application Ranking Summary
Massachusetts FY2017 - WILDLIFE HABITAT

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.		
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)	CAP applications only: Answer YES. Go directly to State question #1.
2. Water Quality Degradation - Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)		
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Points	New or revised CNMP. Core Practice: Nutrient Management (590)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Points	New or revised NMP. Core Practice: Nutrient Management (590)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land ajoining a designated "impaired water body (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Points	*Adjacent* to 303D catagories 4-5 listed waters; erosion and water quality practices.
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Points	*Adjacent* to Other water.
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Points	Practices: Animal Mortality Facility (316)
3. Water Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)		
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquafer overdraft?	15 Points	Calculated on Irrigation Worksheet; pertains to state identified HIGH YIELD or SOLE SOURCE AQUIFER. Irrigation Efficiency Practices: Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466).
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Points	Practices: Sprinkler Irrigation (441) (improvements), Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466), Irrigation Water Management (449), Irrigation Reservoir (436) (tailwater recovery).
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Points	N/A
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Points	N/A
4. Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)		
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for	10 Points	N/A
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)? green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	10 Points	Practice: Tree & Shrub Establishment (612)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	10 Points	Practices: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Tree & Shrub Estab. (612)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Points	Practices: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Tree & Shrub Estab. (612)
5. Soil Health: Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)		
5. a. Reducing erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Points	N/A

5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Points	N/A
6. Wildlife Habitat - Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)		
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern?	10 Points	*Site evaluation documentation shows the species is present or potentially present.* Practices: Early Successional Habitat (647), Wetland Wildlife (644), Upland Wildlife (645), Riparian Herbaceous Cover(390), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Field Border (386), Restoration and Mgt of Rare and Declining Habitats (643), Structure for Wildlife (649)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or set-aside program?	10 Points	N/A
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Points	Practices with pollinator scenarios: Conservation Cover (327) Practices with no specific scenarios - pollinators are listed as targeted species in plan: Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Early Successional Habitat (647).
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Points	N/A
7. Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)		
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Points	Practices: Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Brush Management (314), Tree & Shrub Site Prep (490).
7. b. Implementing practices in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Points	N/A
8. Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve energy by: (select all that apply)		
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Points	N/A
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Points	N/A
9. Business Lines - Will the practices to be scheduled in the "EQIP Plan of Operations" result in:		
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Points	Enhancement (1-2 practices)
Total Maximum Points	**250**	

State Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. STATE PRIORITY HABITAT - Is the proposed project a priority action in Massachusetts? (Answer only ONE, if applicable.)		
1.a. Grassland restoration/mgmt; pitch pine-scrub oak restoration/mgmt; or young forest-shrubland restoration/mgmt.	100 Points	
1.b. Pollinator habitat creation; aquatic organism passage, riparian buffer establishment	75 Points	
2. HABITAT IMPROVEMENT - The habitat assessment score between the current condition and planned condition increases by: (Answer only ONE of the following.)		
2.a. More than 0.5 points?	70 Points	Use the HEP for the targeted habitat type.
2.b. Between 0.3 and 0.5 points?	30 Points	
2c. Between 0.12 and 0.3 points	5 Points	
3. BIOMAP - The proposed project is within state designated BioMap 2 areas: (Answer only ONE, if applicable.)		

3.a. Core Habitat or Riparian Areas	60 Points	Select the answer that covers the largest area of the proposed project.
3.b. Critial Natural Landscape	30 Points	
4. DEGREE OF THREAT - What is the degree of imperilment of the targeted species?		
4.a. Federally listed	40 Points	*Site evaluation documentation shows the species is present or potentially present.* Practices: Early Successional (647), Wetland Wildlife (644), Upland Wildlife (645), Riparian Herbaceous Cover(390), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Field Border (386), Restoration/Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (643), Stream Habitat Improvement (395), Structures for Wildlife (649).
4.b. State Listed	30 Points	
4.c. Species of Conservation Concern	20 Points	
5. NHESP PRIORITY HABITAT – (Answer must be yes for both questions, OR take neither one.)		
5.a. Is the proposed project located within NHESP Priority Habitat?	30 Points	Solicit input from Mass Wildlife (Marianne Piche).
5.b. Will the project benefit the listed species?	30 Points	
6. BUSINESS LINES - What is the proposed project's likelihood of success:		
6.a. Leveraging other financial assistance through conservation partnerships?	20 Points	Confirm funding
6.b. The applicant has failed to implement prior year contracts: ≥ 1 CANCELLED or TERMINATED for non-compliance or cause in the last two years?	-200 Points	NOTE: change from last year (from 2 or more, to 1 or more)
6.c. The applicant has not implemented past contracts in a timely manner: > 1 year behind schedule with an active CPA-153 Non-Compliance Agreement issued?	-100 Points	Document status of active CPA-153
Total Maximum Points	**400**	

Local Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. SPECIES WITH DECLINING POPULATIONS - The proposed project will benefit: (Answer only ONE, if applicable.)		
1.a. >11 SWAP species	75 Points	Solicit input from Mass Wildlife (Marianne Piche)
1.b. 9 to 11 SWAP species	60 Points	
1.c. 6 to 8 SWAP species	50 Points	
1.d. 3 to 5 SWAP species	30 Points	
2. LANDSCAPE CONTEXT AND SCALE - (Answer must be "yes" for both questions, OR take neither one.)		
2.a. Is the proposed project within the proper landscape context?	25 Points	CONTEXT – evaluation of overall property and nearby landscape; SCALE – grassland: minimum 5 acres for reptiles, 10 acres for grassland dependent birds; shrubland: minimum 5 acres. If not listed above solicit input from Mass Wildlife (Marianne Piche).
2.b. Is the proposed project of an appropriate scale for the species targeted?	25 Points	
3. PROTECTION STATUS OF PROJECT AREA - The project area is protected by: (Answer only ONE, if applicable.)		
3.a. Conservation restriction or other permanent conservation status?	50 Points	Confirm easement (APR, FRPP, CR).
3.b. Chapter 61/61A or 61B?	20 Points	Confirm with producer
4. INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL - The proposed project includes invasive species control: (Answer only ONE, if applicable.)		
4.a. LOW - distribution low, early infestation, minimal adjacent seed sources	75 Points	Evaluate the site to determine its priority using "Catch them early…" graph by Ellen Jacquart, The Nature Conservancy.
4.b. MEDIUM - distribution is established in scattered areas across the site; several adjacent seed	50 Points	

4.c. HIGH - widely distributed and well established across the site; several adjacent seed sources	15 Points	Practices: Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Brush Management (314), Tree & Shrub Site Prep (490), Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgt. (645).
Total Maximum Points	**250**	

Application Ranking Summary
Massachusetts FY2017 - NWQI-Palmer River Watershed

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.		
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)	CAP applications only: Answer YES. Go directly to State question #1.
2. Water Quality Degradation - Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)		
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Points	New or revised CNMP. Practice: Nutrient Management (590)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Points	New or revised NMP. Practice: Nutrient Management (590)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land ajoining a designated "impaired water body (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Points	*Adjacent* to 303D catagories 4-5 listed waters; erosion and water quality practices.
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	10 Points	*Adjacent* to Other water.
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Points	Practices: Animal Mortality Facility (316)
3. Water Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)		
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquafer overdraft?	15 Points	Calculated on Irrigation Worksheet; pertains to state identified HIGH YIELD or SOLE SOURCE AQUIFER. Irrigation Efficiency Practices: Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466).
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Points	Practices: Sprinkler Irrigation (441) (improvements), Micro-Irrigation (442), Subsurface Irrigation (443), Land Smoothing (466), Irrigation Water Management (449), Irrigation Reservoir (436) (tailwater recovery).
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Points	N/A
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Points	N/A
4. Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)		
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Points	N/A
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)? green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	10 Points	Practices: Anerobic Digester (366), Combustion System Improvement (372), Composting Facility (317); Establishment of: Conservation Cover (327), Cover Crop (340), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Prescribed Grazing (528), Irrigation Water Mgt (449), Residue Mgt., No-Till (329), Tree & Shrub Establishment (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	10 Points	Practices: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Tree & Shrub Estab. (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Points	Practices: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Tree & Shrub Estab. (612), Windbreak Estab. (380).
5. Soil Health: Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)		

5. a. Reducing erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	10 Points	*Document before/after RUSLE2 conditions.* Practices: Crop Rotation (328), Cover Crop (340), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Mulching (484), Residue Management (329), Strip Cropping (585), Terrace (600).
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Points	*Document increase of SCI (negative to positive, or 25% increase if already positive).* Practices: Animal Trails & Walkways (575), Composting Facility (317), Conservation Cover (327), Cover Crop (340), Deep Tillage (324), Forest Trails & Landings (655), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Mulching (484), Prescribed Grazing (528), Residue Management (329), Field Border (386), Filter Strip (393), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390).
6. Wildlife Habitat - Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)		
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern?	10 Points	*Site evaluation documentation shows the species is present or potentially present.* Practices: Early Successional Habitat (647), Wetland Wildlife (644), Upland Wildlife (645), Riparian Herbaceous Cover(390), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Field Border (386), Restoration and Mgt of Rare and Declining Habitats (643), Structure for Wildlife (649)
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or set-aside program?	10 Points	N/A
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Points	Practices with pollinator scenarios: Conservation Cover (327), Contour Buffer Strips (332), Field Border (386), Hedge Row Planting (422). Practices with no specific scenarios - pollinators are listed as targeted species in plan: Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Early Successional Habitat Dev/Mgmt (647).
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Points	Bivalve Aquaculture (400)
7. Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by:		
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Points	Practices: Herbaceous Weed Control (315), Brush Management (314), Tree & Shrub Site Prep (490).
7. b. Implementing practices in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Points	New or revised PMP. Core Practice: Integrated Pest Management (595).
8. Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project conserve energy by: (select all that apply)		
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Points	Practices: Residue Mgt: No-Till (329), Reduced-Till (345), Conversion to grass-based animal operation, or Irrigation Water Management (449).
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Points	Use NOFEI ranking pool. Other Practices: Pumping Plant (533) - PV; Irrigation Water Mgt. (449) - Auto-Start.
9. Business Lines - Will the practices to be scheduled in the "EQIP Plan of Operations" result in:		
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Points	Enhancement (1-2 practices)
Total Maximum Points	**250**	

State Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. Water Quality -- EPA Watersheds:		
1. Does the application include core conservation practices that will be implemented within 1/4 mile of a stream or water body that is threatened (i.e., receives significant runoff of excess nitrogen and/or phosphorous), on the EPA 303(d) list, or is impaired with a TMDL in place and therefore not on the 303(d) list (or other critical stream or water body authorized by the Regional Conservationist)?	100 Point(s)	Document location factors and practice map overlay

2. Geographic Impacts:		
2. Are core conservation practices planned on the offered acres: i. Greater than 75% of the4 offered acres are within the targeted watershed AND ii. Greater than 75% of the offered acres have a core conservation practice for application	125 Point(s)	Document location factors and practice map overlay
3. Collaborative Efforts:		
3. Are core conservation practices planned within an existing State agency or other non-USDA water quality project area addressing the same or similar pollutants?	75 Point(s)	Document location factors and practice map overlay
4. Effort to address watershed impairments:		
4. Does this program application include the implementation of a system of conservation practices which address the primary watershed impairments?	50 Point(s)	Document impairments addressed by practices
5. High Risk Soils:		
5. Are core conservation practices to be implemented on offered acres with a majority of soil types that are classified hydrologic group D (high runoff) or group A (high infiltration)?	50 Point(s)	Document soil groups D and A for enrolled land
Total Maximum Points	**400**	

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Points	State Program Notes
1. IMPAIRED WATERS: Will the proposed project assist the producer to:		
1. a. Improve water quality in the PALMER RIVER WATERSHED -- 303D listed IMPAIRED WATER (within ¼ mile up-gradient of the designated waters)?	25 Point(s)	Document location factors and practice map overlay
1. b. Improve the quality of DRINKING WATER: (MADEP Surface Water Zones A-B (within zone, up-gradient), Groundwater Zones 1-2 or IWPAs (within zone)), and RIDEM Kickemuit Reservoir in WPA 3 for drinking water piped from SHAD FACTORY POND?	25 Point(s)	
1. c. Implement practices to address agricultural runoff impacting Rhode Island SHELLFISH GROWING AREA CLOSURES?	25 Point(s)	
1. d. Improve the quality of OTHER WATER, including surface water, aquifers and wells (within 300' up-gradient of surface water or within groundwater zone)?	25 Point(s)	
2. ADDRESSING IMPAIRMENTS – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:		
2. a. Implement practices to address agricultural sources and transport of NITROGEN and PHOSPHOROUS (Low Disolved Oxygen and Excessive Algae Growth impairments)?	25 Point(s)	Document purpose of practices and impairments being addressed
2. b. Implement practices to address ANIMAL WASTE related sources and transport of PATHOGENS, ORGANICS and NUTRIENTS?	25 Point(s)	
2. c. Implement practices to address agricultural sources and transport of SEDIMENT and TURBIDITY in surface water?	25 Point(s)	
2. d. Implement practices to address agricultural sources and transport of PESTICIDES in surface and groundwater?	25 Point(s)	
2. e. Implement practices to address HIGH TEMPERATURES of surface water?	25 Point(s)	
3. BUSINESS LINES		
3.a. The applicant is leveraging other financial assistance for the proposed project?	25 Points	Confirm funding
3.b. The applicant has failed to implement prior year contracts: ≥ 1 CANCELLED or TERMINATED for non-compliance or cause in the last two years?	-200 Points	NOTE: change from last year (from 2 or more, to 1 or more)
3.c. The applicant has not implemented past contracts in a timely manner: > 1 year behind schedule with an active CPA-153 Non-Compliance Agreement issued?	-100 Points	Document status of active CPA-153
Total Maximum Points	**250**	